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2X/O/VNG/T49-62 ~~ISHTAR~~
IS 09 May 1135Z P~~SECRET~~

O/5347-62

(NOT SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING)

LNA PUBLISHES LETTERS ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY AMERICAN PRISONERS
RELEASED BY VIET CONG ON 30 APRIL 1962FR [Main Office of the Liberation News
Agency (LNA)]
TO [All Stations]
Msg Nr: --

7 May 62

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REFNO
001

[GIST]((A))

Requests for release dated 24 April 1962, and allegedly signed by FRANCIS QUINN((B)) and GEORGE EDWARD GROOM((B)) were sent to the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam and the "Liberation Army Command" [BO CHI HUYNH GIAI PHONG QUAN]", according to LNA. The text of QUINN's request, published in toto by LNA, attests to the excellent treatment QUINN received,

~~SECRET~~PAGE 1 of 3 PAGE(s)

Viet Cong

P/L

WS 0381

MS 987W
GR --
FQ 05660
SS --FR LPA [Main Office of LNA]
TO CQ [All Stations]
OR --
AD --CN 51402
TI 7 May 62 0200Z(b) (1)
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

O/5347-62

2X/O/VNG/T49-62

PAGE 1 of 3 PAGE(s)~~SECRET SABRE~~

15

~~SECRET SABRE~~

2X/O/VNG/T49-62

~~SECRET~~

O/5347-62

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and declares that "I was deceived by the American authorities into believing that I was coming to South Vietnam to assist in building up Mr. DIEM's army, whereas in reality it was to take direct command of this army so as to suppress the righteous struggle of the people of South Vietnam." The letter further states: "I sincerely promise that when I return to the United States, I will tell the people of my country and my fellow soldiers about the righteous struggle of the South Vietnamese people and the war-mongering aggressive plots of the Americans here."

Excerpts of the letter allegedly signed by GROOM were similar in content.

~~SECRET~~PAGE 2 of 3 PAGE(s)

O/5347-62

2X/O/VNG/T49-62

PAGE 2 of 3 PAGE(s)~~SECRET SABRE~~

~~SECRET SABRE~~

2X/O/VNG/T49-62

~~SECRET~~

O/5347-62

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- ((A)) Complete text available if required.
- ((B)) A UPI release of 1 May 1962 reported that Corporal FRANCIS QUINN and Sergeant GEORGE E. GROOM were freed on 1 May 1962. They had been captured by Viet Cong forces on 8 April 1962 near the village of An Chau, according to the dispatch.

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PAGE 3 of 3 PAGE(s)

O/5347-62

2X/O/VNG/T49-62

PAGE 3 of 3 PAGE(s)

~~SECRET SABRE~~